

Application No.: 10/730,525

Reply to Office Action mailed September 15, 2005

REMARKS

Interview

The Applicant would like to thank Examiner Pasterczyk for the phone interview of November 3, 2005 and the helpful discussions. In that interview, the Applicant proposed amending the claims as described below and in the "listing of claims" above. The Applicant discussed the nature of the invention in distinction to the reference *McCullough* cited against the claims.

The Examiner indicated that the proposed claim amendments would overcome the Section 112 and Section 102 rejections, but alone, would not overcome the Section 103 rejection over *McCullough* unless evidence could be presented, such as comparative examples showing the benefits of reduced APS of the support material. The Applicant presents such evidence here.

Section 112 Rejections

2. Claims 1-3, 6-9, 11-13 and 15-34 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, in particular, claims 1, 6, 13, 15 and 16.

Claims 6, 11, 13, 15 and 16 are herein cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 1 is amended to replace the term "polymer" with the term —copolymer— for added clarity.

The Applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Section 103 and 102 Rejections

4. Claims 1-3, 6-9, 11-13 and 15-34 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious over *McCullough* (US 2002/0032287).

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The claim limitation from original claim 33 is added to claim 1, and claim 1 is amended to limit the "support material" to silica. No new matter is added.

The Applicant contends the claims are not anticipated or rendered obvious over *McCullough* as amended. As evidence of the unexpected benefits of the claimed invention, the Applicant presents a Declaration under 37 CFR § 1.132 of a co-inventor, Agapiou K. Agapiou.

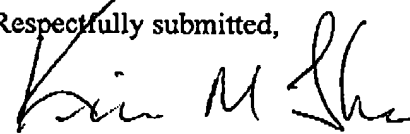
Claims 23, 32 and 33 are herein cancelled without prejudice.

In light of the amendments and Declaration, the Applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

The Applicant contends the claims are in condition for allowance, and requests that the remaining rejections be withdrawn.

December 9, 2005
Date

Respectfully submitted,



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